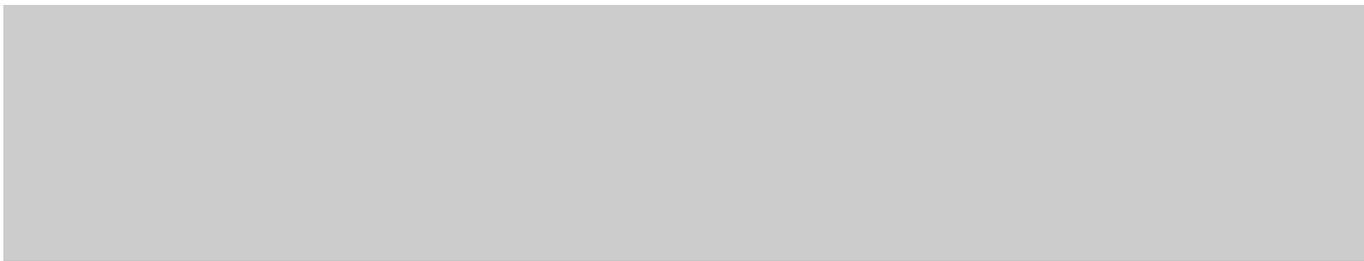


WEST PLATTE HIGH SCHOOL

BAND HANDBOOK 2017-2018



Covers:
Philosophy; Objectives and Goals;
Schedules; Expectations and Procedures;
Lettering





Notes from the Director:

As your director, I pledge to make your time in band rewarding as well as an enjoyable experience. It is a privilege to work with you. **WE**, collectively, will strive together to make each and every performance exciting and enthusiastic; our rehearsals-organized and efficient.

This handbook is designed to help you understand the expectations of our band program. Read it carefully and use it as a reference.

The right to proclaim this year's band as a success depends on what we do individually and collectively in the months ahead. The challenge is ours, let's do it!

There are certain qualities that are necessary for **success**. If everyone demonstrates and applies these qualities, we can be assured of an outstanding band.

1. **Personal Responsibility**

Know what to do; do it correctly and to the best of your ability. Be on time to rehearsals and come prepared. Listen to instructions carefully; be perfect in attendance with no tardies. Have a great attitude.

2. **Attention to Detail**

Understand your role in our band. Execute your role with perfection and take time outside of rehearsal to prepare and practice. Give everything your best every time. Take care of your equipment and music.

3. **Efficiency and Success Come from Discipline**

Personal pride and discipline are the keys to success. Each member must be willing to sacrifice a little to make the whole better. *We are only as good as our weakest link.*

4. **Enjoy What You Are Doing**

Being a member of the Blue Jay Pride should be a fun and rewarding experience. Enjoy what you are doing and the year will be a **success**.

Chris Sullivan
Director of Bands

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS FOR BAND

The West Platte School Instrumental Program is continuing to gain a reputation of excellence due to its high standard of musicianship. This admirable reputation can only be maintained through the continued efforts of each student for whom these organizations exist.

The intense concentration required to perform in band is the very kind of training that produces success in every field. This concentration requires 100% focused attention to the task at hand, a task that does not permit the mind to wander.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

The band program at West Platte High School serves as an important link between the theory and practice of the art of communication through music. Combined with the other performing arts classes offered at WPHS, students are given the opportunity to expand their educational experience of the most complex and important means of communication known to man, the arts. The bands at WPHS are progressive classes building on the acquired musical knowledge and experience gained from the elementary through the middle school levels. Specifically, the objectives of the WPHS bands are to:

1. increase performing skills of students on their specific instruments.
2. develop the musical awareness necessary to allow musical communication in a large ensemble setting.
3. encourage and provide opportunity for individual musical growth.
4. expose students to a variety of musical styles and concepts in the wind band medium.
5. promote a high level of musical appreciation in the community through public performance.
6. develop citizenship in students and compassion for other people through emphasizing unity through musical cooperation representing the range of human emotions and ideals.
7. strive to insure the success of every student in reaching the highest level of musicality possible within the framework of the potential given to each student.

It is intended that the instrumental music program be conducted in a manner that will encourage all students to achieve these goals.

GRADING POLICIES

Students enrolled in the band will be evaluated on the following criteria:

Daily Participation, Playing Tests	50%
Performances and Extra Rehearsals:	50%

Daily Participation: A daily grade will be given to each student on preparation and contribution in rehearsals. Successful participation each day will result in a daily grade of an “A.” A student may lose a daily grade for one of the following reasons:

1. Unexcused Absence
2. Disruption of a rehearsal
3. Failure to follow the rules (i.e. chewing gum, wearing sandals in marching band)
4. Failure to have instrument, music, or proper equipment
5. Lack of preparation on music (practice)

Performances and Extra Rehearsals: Band is a performing art. Much of the educational value of participation is gained through performance. An absence from a performance simply cannot be made up. Each student is responsible to the entire ensemble to be there. Each scheduled performance and extra rehearsal will serve as a major test grade for the year. One unexcused absence will affect the student’s grade by at least one letter grade. Two unexcused absences for the scheduled performances or extra rehearsal in a semester will result in the director recommending the student be removed from the band program.

TOTAL COMMITMENT

When you enroll in the band program, you are making a commitment to all rehearsals and to all performances. Schedules for the year have already been given and you are expected to plan your schedules around it. Band students are the most active students in the school when it comes to being in numerous activities and athletic events. In no way should that restrict the student from being successful in band; HOWEVER, it’s a give and take situation. If one rehearsal is being missed due to an athletic practice, than it should be reciprocated if that situation occurs again. Performances are scheduled so that conflicts do not occur with other school events. If somehow conflicts do occur, the graded class must come first over an extracurricular activity.

If an absence is going to happen, a *written* note signed by a parent or email will need to be given to the directors at least a week before the event that is being missed. It needs to state the reason for the absence. “Please excuse Molly from rehearsal tonight” is not an excuse that the directors will consider. “Please excuse Molly from rehearsal next week as she will be having surgery on her knee” is completely excusable. The student who claims they have to work is NOT excused. The student is responsible for giving their band schedule to their employer as well as checking their work schedule ahead of time so they will not miss rehearsals or performances.

DISCIPLINE

Self-discipline is the best kind of discipline. It is the only kind of discipline that is positive and rewarding. Self-discipline relies on honest cooperation, understanding of the goals of the organization, and the collective wisdom of the department. When self-discipline falters, school and departmental roles are responsible for discipline.

Students are expected to adhere to District Policies and school rules. When at band functions, the following will not be permitted:

- Inappropriate behavior
- Drugs or alcohol
- Use of obscene language
- Horseplay

Students are to remember that whether in or out of class, they represent the PRIDE of the West Platte Bluejays. Behavior that hurts the department will be handled appropriately with a scale ranging from a warning, to a loss of privilege to perform resulting in a failing performance grade, to expulsion from the band.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE AND TRAVEL

Student leaders are responsible for setting the example and insuring their section's proper behavior and conduct during all public appearances and trips. The band serves as a representative for West Platte High School to its community. The following guidelines are designated to establish a code of conduct in public and traveling:

BUS RULES AND REGULATIONS

The following rules for bus behavior apply to ALL band trips:

1. When boarding the bus, leave the first seat empty, as each bus will have a director or supervisor.
2. Assist in keeping the bus safe and sanitary at all times. Place all trash in the trash can or bag.
3. Keep books, bags, instruments and equipment out of the aisle.
4. Treat the bus with respect.
5. Be absolutely quiet when approaching and crossing railroad tracks.
6. Follow instructions from the bus driver and adult supervisor at all times.
Disrespect to either adult will not be tolerated!
7. Remain on the bus in the event of any road emergency until further instructions are given.
8. Keep hands, arms and head inside the bus at all times. Never throw anything out of the window.

9. Remember that loud talking, laughing or unnecessary confusion diverts the driver's attention and could result in a serious accident. Music may only be used with headphones.
10. Remain in your seat while the bus is in motion.
11. Upon arrival at the destination, all members should remain on the bus until a staff member has signaled for unloading.
12. There will be NO undressing on the bus.

PERFORMANCE RULES

1. Students are not allowed to chew gum or wear jewelry.
2. Each student is required to wear their hair as designated by their instructor.
3. Stay in full uniform until you are directed to remove any part.
4. You should always wear band t-shirt under your uniform to protect your uniform.

BLEACHER PROCEDURE

1. The band will sit in the assigned seats in the stadium. Do not move to other sections or allow others to sit in your section.
2. The marching unit will remain standing in the stadium until the drum major gives the command to be seated.
3. There is to be no playing of the instruments while the whole band is not playing. Percussion may play ORGANIZED grooves or cheers with the cheerleaders during the game.
4. Watch the directors and or drum majors when they get in front of the band. Be prepared to play at all times.
5. Complete uniform will be worn at all times and in the proper manner. Hats and gloves may be removed during the game.
6. Follow the game and support the team.
7. No horseplay of any nature will be tolerated.
8. Always play musically.

WEST PLATTE HIGH SCHOOL BAND 2016-17 SCHEDULE

August 18	Football Game	5:30 pm	Stadium
September 1	Football Game	5:30 pm	Stadium
September 8	Football Game	5:30 pm	Stadium
September 22	Football Game	5:30 pm	Stadium
September 29	Homecoming	5:30 pm	Stadium
October 7	Applefest Parade	8:30 am	
November 4	All District Auditions	TBA	Central HS
December 2	All State Auditions	TBA	Columbia, MO
December 9	All District Clinic/Performance		Platte City
December 12	Winter Band Concert	7pm	PAC
January 19	Pep Band- BB Game	5pm	Gym
February 2	Pep Band- BB Game	5pm	Gym
February 6	Pep Band- BB Game	5pm	Gym
February 7	KCI Chair Auditions		
February 17	KCI Conference Band		
March 24	District Solo/Small Ensemble Festival		Central HS
April 3	District Large Ensemble Festival		Platte City
May 2	Spring Band Concert	7pm	PAC
May 6	Awards Banquet		
May 13	Graduation		

Name: _____
 Number of Years Lettering (including current year): _____

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LETTERING

To letter in instrumental music, one must:

- A) Be in good standing with the band (good attitude, no disruptions, etc.)
- B) attend all the performances throughout the year(including band camp)
- C) participate in BOTH semesters of band,
- D) earn a total of 100 points or more during one academic year

NOTE: EARNING A LETTER REQUIRES EXTRA TIME OUT OF THE REQUIRED BAND CLASS.
 THIS IS THE EXTRACURRICULAR PART OF THE CLASS.

Available Points		Points Earned
30 pts.	Perform in an honor band	_____
15 pts.	Try out for All District Band	_____
25 pts.	Try out for All State Band	_____
3 pts.	Private lesson on instrument (signed note by the instructor)	_____
10 pts.	Perform an instrumental solo and/or small ensemble at District Contest	_____
20 pts.	Receive a II rating at District Contest	_____
30 pts.	Receive a I rating at District Contest	_____
25 pts.	Receive a II rating at State Contest	_____
30 pts.	Receive a I rating at State Contest	_____
10 pts.	Performance outside of school (church, etc.) - must have program of performance	_____
5 pts.	Attend a band concert (another HS or college) - must have program of performance	_____
???	Other approved activities??	_____

TOTAL: _____

BAND TRIP PERMISSION FORM FOR 2017-18

With my signature, I designate that I have read the rules and expectations as stated in the band handbook (www.beltonbands.com) and give permission for the following:

1. To allow my son/daughter to attend the field trips named below.
2. To authorize emergency medical treatment for my son/daughter should it become necessary.

MEDICAL PROBLEMS: YES NO (IF YES, EXPLAIN)

ALLERGIES: YES NO (IF YES, EXPLAIN)

(These constitute *only* the trips out of town. Some more may be added)

Emergency Contact Number: _____

Name of Student: _____

Signature of Parent/ Guardian: _____

IMPORTANT: Neither the school district nor the bus contractor will be responsible for the security of personal items taken onto or left on the bus.